**Increase in Narcotics trade in Gujarat**

6893. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing Narcotic trade in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, what is the present position; and

(c) the steps taken to curb the flourishing narcotic trade in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Smuggling of narcotic drugs is a clandestine activity and therefore it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing or otherwise. During the year 1994, 279 seizures were made in Gujarat as compared to 209 seizures during the year 1993.

(c) Instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to main tain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in NDPS Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. BSF and Coast Guards, who are deployed on land and coastal borders have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the NDPS Act.

**Opening of new banks in rural areas of Gujarat**

6894. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to open new banks in rural areas of Gujarat States during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what is the number of such banks to be opened in Kutch-Bhuj, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha, Dang, Surat and Valsad Districts Rajkot together with the locations thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) RBI have reported that under the extant policy for branch expansion in rural areas, it is left to the judgement of the individual bank to assess the need for opening of additional branches in the respective service areas of their existing rural branches.

Licences have already been issued for opening of branches in rural areas indicated below:

(Position as on 31-3-1995)

| S. No. | Name of District | Centre | Bank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Kutch (including Bhuj Block) | Sumarsaier | Bank of Baroda |
| 2. | – do– | Rampur | State Bank of India |
| 3. | Surat | Sachin | Bank of Barod a |

**Target fixed for priority sector advanced by banks**

6895. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed by scheduled commercial banks for priority sector advances during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) advances made by the scheduled commercial banks to priority sector against the targets;

(c) whether the performance of scheduled commercial banks in priority sector advances has lower than targets;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;